

Notes from the Small Groups at the 3/4/10 Public Forum on the Google RFI:

1) Describe any current or planned programs in your community to accelerate and expand adoption and use of broadband Internet access.

- * Telemedicine in Homes
- * Use it to assist our growing elderly population:
 - more bandwidth will make this hd and multi-point transmit in conversational/dialogical mode
 - exercise, yoga, visually teach senior/shut-ins how to care for themselves
 - web access classes of all kinds
- * Life-casting system for Church Street (streaming hi-def video-concerts, etc)
- * To improve communications among/between homes as well as into them
- * Multiply our cultural advantage of neighborly interactions
- * Impact the broader world with our culture
- * Leadership defining what communities can be
- * Wireless hot spots
- * Connect everyone – not just in town, but also in outlying areas
- * Sharing content worldwide – global classroom – our wide cultural connections need and have this broader community – expanded broadband would support this
- * Virtual walk through the local store – shop and ship – expand small Vermont businesses to the global market
- * Other possible virtual spaces: shopping, gaming, cultural communications, connecting families – could put people in spaces in a new, experimental way

2) Reasons you believe that Google should select your community for this project.

- * Burlington is a college town – influx of young, tech-savvy people (mentioned in all three groups) - potential for gaming/programming schools/groups
- * Gaming can be restricted by # of characters - Champlain College already working on multi-player gaming
- * UVM has top-ten Federally-funded research centers for environmental-mapping based (Google earth)
- * Burlington's assets: creativity, energy, but also professional
- * Burlington's personality is a match for Google's – horizontal (not top-down) orgs, face-to-face meetings/interactions – bring more people to the table through expanded broadband (It is the Vermont town meeting concept, but via the internet)
- * Burlington = horizontal nature – democratic – govt - business
- * An artist's community: there is lots to give and gain with expanded broadband: virtual art galleries (could allow more rural areas to take advantage of larger town with an art interest), on-line art education
- * South End Art Hop could be virtual
- * There is a thriving social media network in Burlington
- * Burlingtonians "think local, act global"
- * Burlington is socially-progressive with a diverse language range – a safe haven for refugees. Use diversity and expanded broadband to connect continents - families
- * We are a community that is "groovy like Google"
- * We "do no evil"
- * City-run electric Dept.

- * Existing businesses ready to adopt/expand (Burton, Dealer.com) – potential for Burlington to become a Mecca for hi-tech businesses, innovation
- * Attract more of these types of businesses by offering 3d virtual conferencing over Skype
- * We already have a high-tech community (business and otherwise) – there is great intellectual capacity
- * Non-profit dense community working towards world health, peace, justice issues
- * Front Page Forum – a community that is already communicating – expanded broadband will expand that capacity
- * Potential for neighbor-to-neighbor encouragement to sign-up
- * Use strong public transit (bus) system to promote new technologies (signage) – also, use new technology to promote a minute-to-minute update on schedules, bus locations – improve access of public transportation through knowledge
- * Interested, intelligent, independent community
- * our diverse youth population – Skype – schools talking to schools worldwide – more open and continuous communication – sharing of ideas, collaboration
- * International Airport
- * As global economy becomes more integrated, we will be attractive to people who want to telecommute into Burlington
- * Vermont and Burlington is an established “brand” – that is part of the offering
- * Burlington is poised to become a leader in creating an on-line culture. The US needs to keep up with international tech standards and global competition – a town like Burlington can lead this charge.
- * “Vermont 3.0”: 1.0 quarrying and agriculture, 2.0 manufacturing, tourism, dairy, 3.0 info and intellectual – this supports smart growth
- * Fletcher-Allen – community of medical professionals
- * Echo Center – our connections to the environment, the greener earth – use the internet to share knowledge, passion with other cities, countries, etc.
- * Lake Champlain – connection to environment, clean air, water
- * Cloud Computing opportunities: arts, science, always connected – host your own private cloud – always accessible, full-speed
- * Software/web development/tech companies
- * City Govt.
- * Fiber network – infrastructure is already in-place
- * Epik One – Williston Google Analytics

3) Briefly summarize any additional comments or suggestions you would like to make to Google on behalf of your community.

- * would be ideal to take Burlington’s small, but diverse population and make the internet available to everyone – sliding scale based on income – or free to lower-income residents
 - * We have the potential to expand throughout the region
 - * “net neutrality”
 - * “Crypto guarantee”
- CONCERNS:
- * Privacy (this issue raised by two groups)
 - * Quality of the viewing experience – too many infomercials (especially a concern for shut-ins, seniors)
 - * Accessibility – make it available to the masses